

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING
CONFERENCE CALL
4:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 5, 2010

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Carol Lambert	Board Member
Sue Austin	Board Member	Topper Tracy	Board Member
Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary	Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Ben Carlson, Lou Wojciechowski, Kelly Manzer, Bryan Krone, Bill Schmitt, Kim Bagnell, Randy Laedeke, Val Crossland.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

MINUTES: Member Lambert moved to approve January 8th minutes. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed

PURSE FUND: Ryan Sherman reviewed statement summarizing funds received in 2009 and projected funds for 2010. This is a running total of all programs that Ryan keeps as a reference for the board.

Member Lambert asked if it included all license revenue. Sherman reported it included all license fees collected as of July 1, 2009 – including Lottery sites, ADW licensees, Tracks, Participants and Tote company.

MONTANA DOWNS APPLICATION: Eric Spector reported to the board that he had received a final draft lease agreement from Dale Bickel and had signed it and sent it back to the Missoula Commission for county review and final vote.

Member Tatsey moved to approve the Montana Downs request for August 13th, and 14th race dates. Member Egbert seconded it. The motion was open for discussion.

Bill Schmidt asked how the races in Missoula will impact purse availability for Great Falls' races. Sherman reported that if Missoula runs, Great Falls would get \$5,000 less, Miles City would get \$1,000 less, and Billings would get \$7,500 less in purse money. Missoula races have historically contributed 9.5% of total live handle. Missoula's live races in 2010 should improve purses for all tracks in 2011. Those were rough estimates of purse monies, but was a good idea of how the purses at each track would be affected.

Vote was called. Motion passed unanimously.

RACING SUBCOMMITTEES: Sherman asked the Board to consider establish working subcommittees to help the Board and the racing community move forward and grow the racing

industry in Montana in a constructive and open way. The suggested subcommittees include: Live and Simulcast Horse Racing; Political Action (Legislative); Rules (already appointed by the Board); Marketing and Promotion (also included in this subcommittee is ADW and FS); Industry Alliance (forming relationships and sponsorship opportunities with various industry groups state-wide and nationally); Finance (Board budget and purse accounts); Hall of Fame and Awards.

Member Egbert stated that she thought the subcommittees were a good idea to get the public involved. Member Lambert agreed that the subcommittees were a good idea and that Sherman presented a good choice of potential committees. Sherman added that corporate sponsorship could be developed to help with an annual meeting. Member Egbert said the list represented a good cross section of all the aspects of racing and would enable good public involvement. She suggested the Board discuss the subcommittee's further at the March board meeting.

Sherman stated that he hoped he would have a volunteer list for the Board to approve by the March meeting. Member Tracy asked how volunteers were being recruited. Sherman responded that he is working with DLI on a press release. Notice will be sent to everyone on the Board's interested party list (150-180 addresses), and to the Racing Journal and local newspapers.

Member Lambert moved to approve the development of working subcommittees. Member Egbert seconded. Motion passed.

Ryan Sherman reported that the stewards are working on rule book changes. They decided to concentrate on just the specific changes needed for 2010 rather than revising the entire structure of the rules as written. While the rules should be cleaned up and structured more effectively, Sherman pointed out that rule changes cost \$50/page and it would be better to wait until after possible statutory changes are made in the 2011 legislative session. Lou Wojciechowski noted that using model rules could be helpful. Member Lambert asked why the cost was so high. Sherman stated that the costs reflect publications, printing, and re-writes.

CROW FAIR RACING: Sherman reported that mid June would be the trial day for quarter horse futurity and the crow bred futurity. Twelve days later they would have two days of racing. They requested no financial help from the Board of Horse Racing but will adhere to the Board's rules. They will have two stewards, one of whom will be a MBHR steward and the other one will be a Crow steward. They will have a vet, bookkeeper, and all major officials. MBHR will participate in an advisory role.

A public member asked if they will have simulcasting at the Crow races. Sherman stated they would not. Another member of the public asked if they would be operating under the MBHR's rules. Sherman reiterated that the Crow races will operate pursuant to the Board's rules but that the Board would have no authority over the races. Chairman Carruthers emphasized that the Crow were just asking the Board to help them to get started. Sherman noted that the tribal members are hoping to have the same racing committee in place for several years. Members Tracy and Egbert recognized Sherman's efforts in working with the Crow Nation.

OTHER BUSINESS: Member Egbert asked how contract negotiations were going in Great Falls. Eric Spector responded that the County was asking for a three year contract that included a phased in plan of upgrades. He expects the contract to be finalized in the next two weeks. Montana Downs has developed a tentative conditions condition book and stakes schedule. Sherman noted that he has received a stakes schedule from Yellowstone Downs and Miles City.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Carruthers asked if there was any additional public comment. Marcia Fowler asked Spector when new simulcast facility contracts will come out and what changes what changes will be presented. Spector stated the only changes would be dates.

Kim Bagnell asked Spector what feedback he was getting from the Missoula County Commissioners. Spector stated that the Commissions' feedback had been very good. Val Crossland noted that the Missoula community is thrilled to get racing back. Bagnell asked why there was just going to be two race days in Missoula. Chairman Carruthers responded that Missoula hasn't had racing in three years, not sure horses will be there, and that it will take a lot of money to shape up the facility.

Marcia Fowler requested historical handles for simulcast facilities and tracks. Sherman said he would provide those.

Brian Krone asked if Spector will resurface the Great Falls track, and why he wasn't planning on offering spring training. Spector responded that his company wanted to focus on operating the track. They plan to laser track, improve drainage, and put a safe track and rail system in place. The plan of his company was to run racing, not focus on training.

ADJOURNMENT: Member Tatsey moved to adjourn. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Signature

Date